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(54) Form automation system.

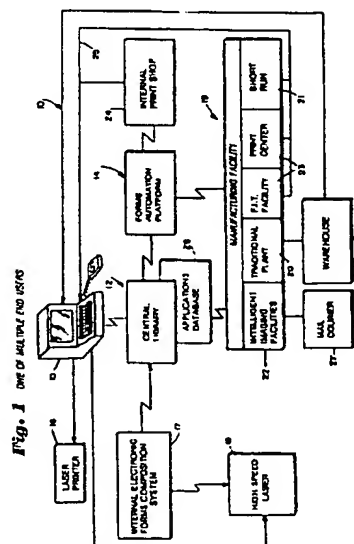
(57) The invention provides a system for production of business forms, comprising:

first computer means comprising a forms automation platform means; for establishing each of a plurality of business forms in electronic format; for determining print format information for said forms; and for converting said electronic format to appropriate print formats based upon said distribution profile information and print format information, to design a business form in electronic format:

second computer means at each of a plurality of end user sites, including means for inputting variable information, if any, to be contained in the business forms to be produced:

third computer means comprising a central library means: for processing requests for distribution to effect electronic distribution of forms; and for providing information about print formats and distribution profiles to said second computer means, said means including a display and an inputting means for inputting commands regarding the specific business form or forms requested; and communication means for providing communication between said forms automation platform means and said

central library means, and between said central library means and said end user sites. Also provided are methods of producing and distributing business forms using the system.





European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
X	BUSINESS FORMS & SYSTEMS vol. 26, no. 10, May 1988, page 42 D. KERRIGAN 'Electronic Form Systems Replacing Paper Forms' * middle column *	1-7,9, 11,12, 14-17	G06F15/20
P,X	PROCEEDINGS OF THE 14TH INTERNATIONAL COMPUTER SOFTWARE AND APPLICATIONS CONFERENCE 1990, pages 255 - 260 , XP0223616 T.J. FAN ET AL. 'FormPlus: A Form Authoring Toolkit' * page 255, right column, line 1 - line 34 * * page 256, left column, line 1 - line 16 * * page 256, left column, line 33 - line 42 * * page 256, right column, line 49 - line 59 *	1-3,5,6, 11,12, 14,15,16	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
A	EP-A-0 388 579 (I.B.M.) * page 3, line 18 - line 50 * * page 4, line 37 - line 55 * * page 5, line 22 - line 32 *	1-17	G06F
A	GB-A-2 202 064 (PITNEY BOWES) * page 1, line 1 - page 2, line 5 * * page 2, line 20 - line 32 *	1-17	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 12, no. 290 (P-742) August 1988 & JP-A-63 066 632 (NEC) * abstract *	7-10,13, 17	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 02 APRIL 1993	Examiner POTTIEZ M.G.
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>I : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons A : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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